

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) A slider-loading mechanism for an optical drive, having a slider (2)-which is fastened on a resilient arm (6)-and is lowered onto the surface of an optical storage medium (8)-and/or raised from the surface of the optical storage medium (8), and a loading element (4)-separate from the resilient arm (6), the loading element (4)-penetrating between the surface of the optical storage medium (8)-and the resilient arm (6)-and being actuated via a lever (3)-for acting on the resilient arm (6) to lower and/or raise the slider (2), ~~characterized in that , wherein~~ the lever (3)-is actuated via a gear mechanism (5, 7)-having a loading pin (7), which is provided with a gearwheel, and a rack (5), which is arranged in a displaceable manner and interacts with the gearwheel of the loading pin (7).
2. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a linear drive is provided for the rack (5).
3. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the gearwheel of the loading pin (7)-is actuated by moving the rack (5)-relative to the gearwheel with the linear drive.
4. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1-3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the gearwheel of the loading pin (7)-is actuated by moving the gearwheel relative to the rack (5)-using a rough tracking function.
5. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1-4, characterized in that it further includes claim 1, wherein~~ displacement stops for the rack (5)-for ensuring that the slider (2)-is always lowered and/or raised in a reading/writing region of the storage medium (8).

6. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1–5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in the lowered position the resilient arm (6) is not in contact with the loading element (1).
7. (currently amended) The slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1–6, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein it further includes an adjusting means for adjusting the prestressing of the resilient arm (6).
8. (currently amended) A unit for reading from and/or writing to optical recording media, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it has a slider-loading mechanism as claimed in ~~one of claims 1–7~~ claim 1.